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logical survey of changes. The final chapter deals with consonant changes, the loss and intrusion, the voicing of consonants, and palatalization. The book is neatly printed in type of good size and is provided with a full index.

It is only just to say that this booklet furnishes the best existing introduction to the subject of which it treats. There has been much need of a simple statement of the ascertained facts concerning regular changes in English speech during the last thousand years. The writer has been particularly careful to give, so far as can now be done, the chronology of these changes. Scholars have long been interested in the subject. In 1869 A. J. Ellis published Part I and Part II of his work on *Early English Pronunciation with Especial Reference to Shakspeare and Chaucer*; in 1871 Part III; in 1873 Part IV; in 1889, Part V ("The Existing Phonology of English Dialects"). Incited by this work Henry Sweet wrote an essay for the Philological Society of London (*Transactions*, 1873-74), which he afterward expanded into *A History of English Sounds* (1888). Both this work and that of Ellis contain useful word-lists. In 1892 Sweet published *A New English Grammar, Logical and Historical, Part I*, afterward condensing the historical part into *A Short Historical Grammar* (1892).

Meanwhile on the continent there was increasing activity. Men like Maetznér, Koch, Sievers, ten Brink, Kluge, Cosijn, Jespersen, Luick, and others, were making large contributions to the history of English phonology and inflection, while a host of dissertations on special points of grammar came from the German universities and, more recently, from those of England and America.

The time has now come when some of the results of this study should be easily accessible to teachers and others, interested in English speech. To them Professor Hart's book will prove a convenient and trustworthy guide in its own direction. The book presupposes an elementary knowledge of Old English (Anglo-Saxon) and some acquaintance with Middle English texts. And so much preparation the teacher of English today ought to have gained.

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The Sounds of the French Language: Their Formation, Combination and Representation. By PAUL PASSY. Translated by D. L. SAVORY AND D. JONES. Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1907. Pp. viii+134. 2s. 6d.

It is twenty-one years since the first edition of Passy's well-known manual of the French sounds. Published originally in the interest of the spelling-reform movement, its author has steadily enlarged his field of observation and widened his interests. Only last year the Teubner house issued M. Passy's *Petite Phonétique comparée des principales langues européennes*, an exceedingly useful little book, and unique of its kind. We regard the appearance of these two publications as a striking indication of the growth of interest in the physiology of the speech-sounds of the modern languages, and as a well-deserved tribute to the solidity of M. Passy's work. Accurate in observation, cautious in generalization, and clear in exposition, he is a safe guide for teachers and students who are dealing with the foreign languages as living tongues.

The translation of Messrs. Savory and Jones really constitutes a new edition (the seventh) of the *Sons du français*, for "many hints have been added, intended

to meet the difficulties of English students," and "there have been a good many alterations and additions." Needless to say, the printing has been done with extreme care.

A word may be added upon two parts of the primer which seem susceptible of improvement in the direction of clearness. In §§ 103-5, the distinction between the expiration-syllable and the sonority-syllable is not quite clearly worked out. The student might compare to advantage the corresponding sections in Jespersen's *Lehrbuch der Phonetik* (Teubner, 1904) and, for the matter of syllable boundaries, the simple experiments described by Rousselot, *Précis de prononciation française* (1902), pp. 76, 77. The author's opinion (§ 99) that "the regularity of accented syllables has always been the fundamental principle in French versification" needs explanation and, we think, modification. In the same connection, we do not believe that a broad study of Romance metrics would support M. Passy's dictum, that "rhyme [in French] is nothing but a poetical ornament, which may very well be dispensed with."

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American Birds. Photographed and studied from life. By WILLIAM LOVELL FINLEY. Illustrated from photographs by HERMAN T. BOHLMAN and the author. New York: Scribners. 1907. Pp. xvi+256. Profusely illustrated.

Messrs. Finley and Bohlman have placed before the public in book form notes and photographs which they have gathered during the last decade from localities in the western part of this country. The home life of a number of birds is charmingly narrated by Mr. Finley, and that he was an eyewitness of all the events recorded cannot be doubted. There is no "nature faking" here, and the birds are treated as birds and not as beings endowed with human attributes.

Mr. Bohlman with the author's aid has furnished the photographs which constitute the framework of the book. We expect now-a-days a goodly number of excellent photographs instead of the crude cuts of former times, and we are in no way disappointed in the present case, for no other book known to us contains so large a number of beautiful illustrations. Many of these have appeared from time to time in the *Condor*.

Each of the twenty-one chapters describes one or more birds belonging to a family, and although the birds are from the West most of them are equally common in the East. We find portraits of chickadees, wrens, kingfishers, and other familiar friends painted for us by pen and camera. The chapters on the "Hummingbirds" and the "Barn Owls" are especially interesting and instructive.

Children as well as adults should like these glimpses of bird life, and after a child has seen his first hummingbird, the reading of an account of this bird such as Mr. Finley has given us cannot fail to foster his interest in these feathered gems.

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